



THE GREEN SCENE

El Cariso Regional Park Gymnasium and Community Building Celebrates \$11.5 Million Groundbreaking!

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at El Cariso Regional Park for its new state-of-the-art, \$11.5 million dollar gymnasium and community center on Saturday, October 15, 2011. The project will include a gymnasium, meeting rooms, kitchen, classroom/computer lab, office, lobby, civic art, courtyard, storage, additional parking and restrooms. The 79-acre El Cariso Regional Park stands as a memorial to the El Cariso Hot Shots, a USDA-Forest Service Firefighting crew who lost their lives during the Loop Fire in 1966. Speakers at the event included Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney; Department of Public Works Deputy Director Massood Eftekhari; Park Volunteer and Community Leader Alina Mendizabel and park patron and representative Irene Galva. Thanks also go to the El Cariso Regional Park staff for their hard work on this special event and for making the park look fantastic!



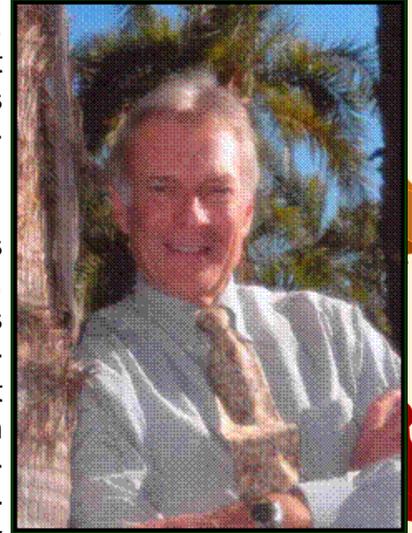
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Greetings from the Director

Autumn is well underway and along with the change in time and the change in climate, we also see seasonal changes in our Department. As the weather cools down, naturally the activities and programs that we offer change to adapt to our surroundings. More indoor activities will be available, and soon, we will be hard at work planning and implementing the success of joyous holiday activities and programming.

Through all of this change, I am particularly proud that certain things remain the same. Qualities such as your dedication and hard work, exceptional customer service and responsiveness to our park patrons are ones that I can say are evergreen. It is these qualities and dedication, along with innovative programs, that keep us at the forefront and bring us recognition. As you read through this issue of the Green Scene, you will see that your and your colleagues' efforts and dedication are recognized by the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission; the People for Parks organization and by our very own Department through the Department Employee Awards Program.



Russ Guiney, Director

Keep up the good work!

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

Where in the Department is This?



Answer on page 4

2011 Artsfest Brings Great Summer and Fall Entertainment to Los Angeles County!

The 2011 Artsfest sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital and Metrolink made East Los Angeles the ultimate cultural destination for summer and fall! The local community enjoyed artwalks, interactive dance and drum sessions guided by seasoned performers, movies in the park, outdoor concerts, crafts, great food and more. All of these fun activities were offered throughout the summer at the East Los Angeles Civic Center and various County of Los Angeles parks including Amelia Mayberry Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, Rimgrove Park and Valleydale Park. County Parks and Recreation staff worked hard during these events with abundant enthusiasm and creativity! And, the parks were in excellent condition, thanks to construction and grounds maintenance workers.

Fall entertainment continued with *Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)* at the East Los Angeles Civic Center on November 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. This special event was co-sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, the County of Los Angeles Public Library, So-Cal Burgers, Casa Cultural Saybrook, Juan's Restaurante and the East Los Angeles Society of Film and Arts. Attractions included George Newnam's popular *House of Skeletons* art display, handmade arts, crafts and jewelry, along with displays of family altars to celebrate the life of loved ones. The day ended with International Lecturer and Former Director of the Museum of Latin American Art Gregorio Luke who offered an interactive presentation exploring the colorful tradition of *Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)*. Special thanks to Susie Hsi and the East Agency Staff for providing such a great venue for entertainment and we look forward to the next Artsfest in 2012!



The Employee Awards Program

The Employee Awards Program is designed to recognize employees and teams who have made exceptional contributions to the Department and the residents of Los Angeles County. The Awards Committee is comprised of three voting representatives from each of the Department's Agencies and a non-voting representative from the Executive Staff. Every month, the Awards Committee receives nominations for each category: Permanent Employee, Temporary/Recurrent Employee, Park/Facility or Program. The Awards Committee reads through the nominations and votes on the Department winner for the current month for each of the categories.

If you know any stellar achievers and programs and would like to nominate them for awards, please contact your agency coordinators:

East Agency: Lorraine Martinez at (626) 821-4619

North Agency: Jeff Dorst at (661) 257-4014

Regional Facilities: Chris Graham at (626) 334-1065

South Agency: Jerome Johnson at (323) 589-9613

Administrative Services/Planning & Development: Elizabeth Mendez at (213) 738-3040

To see the 2011 list of nominees and winners go to pages 7, 8 and 9.

Where in the Department?

This pair of decorative wooden doors are part of the 1930 reconstruction of a theater formerly known as the Pilgrimage Play Theater. The original wooden theater, which had burned down, was replaced with a poured concrete design in the style of ancient Judaic architecture meant to resemble the gates of Jerusalem. This Amphitheatre, currently known as the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, was re-named in honor of the former Supervisor.

Where in the Department? is a new feature by Ansley B. Davies, Associate Curator. Ansley has been locating and documenting all of the Department's historic resources. We hope this new feature will be a fun way for you to learn some interesting things about the department. Thank you to Ansley for making this column available and all of her hard work inventorying our historic assets.



Productivity and Quality Awards (PQA) Program Department Winners

This year's Productivity and Quality Awards ceremony took place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on October 19, 2011. The following Department programs were honored by the Quality and Productivity Commission: **The Countywide Fitness Challenge – Top 10 Winner (in collaboration with Human Resources)** and **Jump Start: Family Fun & Fitness Boot Camp – Special Merit Plaque**. We are proud to have award-winning programs!



PQA Top Ten Award Winner:
Countywide Fitness Challenge - Department of Human Resources (DHR)
with Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Front Row: L-R: DPR Recreation Services Manager Yvette Maufas; DPR Chief Deputy Director John Wicker; DPR Director Russ Guiney; DHR Director Lisa M. Garrett; DHR Senior Human Resources Manager Eliza Carrillo; DHR Assistant Director Marian Hall; DHR Chief Deputy Sandra Taylor; DPR Public Information Officer Imee Perius; DPR Special Assistant Kaye Michelson and DPR Recreation Services Leader William Jarrett.

Back Row: L-R: DHR Principal Analyst Mary Gilmore; DHR Analyst Diana Fonseca; DPR Productivity Manager Elizabeth Mendez; DHR Administrative Deputy Amylen Clark; Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich; Chief Executive Officer William T. Fujioka; DHR Analyst Merce Gillo; DPR Alternate Productivity Manager Monica Pollaccia; Quality and Productivity Commission Chair William A. Sullivan.

PQA Special Merit Plaque
Jump Start: Family Fun & Fitness
Boot Camp



Above Photo: Recreation Services
Leader of Parks and Recreation,
William Jarrett– Jump Start: Family
Fun & Fitness Instructor

People for Parks Honors Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and County Parks and Recreation Heroes

It was a star-studded evening above the world famous Hollywood Bowl stage on Wednesday, October 12 where the People for Parks 10th Annual Parks Awards celebration recognized the vital role that parks and recreation plays in healthy communities. Hosted by Los Angeles broadcast journalist Laura Diaz, the event honored men and women of all ages who make parks special and show exemplary community service for their invaluable contributions to life and leisure in Southern California. Honorees were nominated by employees within Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich received a special award for being a champion of parks and recreation. Other honorees included: Kelly Meyer and Chi Kim, founders of the American Heart Association Teaching Garden, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck for his commendable principles of community policing and smart recreation to reclaim MacArthur Park. Park Heroes honored were: Marco Cruz, City of Los Angeles Volunteer - Ramon Garcia Recreation Center; Meliza Hernandez, County of Los Angeles Coordinator - R.E.A.A.C.H. Program; Steven Katz, County of Los Angeles Volunteer - Rowland Heights Park; Julio Moreno, County of Los Angeles Volunteer - Pamela Park; Eberlin Flores, City of Los Angeles Volunteer - Extreme Teens Program at Watt's 109th Street Recreation Center; Charles and Martha House, County of Los Angeles Volunteers - Schabarum Regional Park; Joe Montalto, City of Los Angeles Part-Time Employee - Northridge Wilkinson Center; Maria Topete, City of Los Angeles Part-Time Employee - Elysian Valley Recreation Center. Congratulations to all the honorees and park heroes!



Pictured left to right: Park Hero Eberlin Flores; Journalist Laura Diaz; Park Heroes: Meliza Hernandez, Julio Moreno, Joe Montalto, Martha House, Charles House, Steven Katz; People for Parks President Jack Foley; Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich; American Heart Association Teaching Garden Founders: Kelly Meyer and Chi Kim; Los Angeles Police Department Acting Chief Michel Moore.

**NOMINEES AND WINNERS
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
APRIL 2011**

Permanent Employee of the Month:

Dora Sanchez, South Agency

Walter Mann, East Agency

Darren Canonge, North Agency

Rudy Pangan, Regional Facilities

Vivienne Truong, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Permanent Employee of the Month: Dora Sanchez

Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:

Evangalina Cruz, South Agency

David Hurtado, East Agency

Jesse Laney, North Agency

Debra Goodwin, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month: David Hurtado

Park/Facility or Program of the Month:

Service Yard Clean up, South Agency

Walnut Nature Park, East Agency

Jackie Robinson Park, North Agency

Lario San Gabriel River Trail, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Park/Facility or Program of the Month:
Lario San Gabriel River Trail**

**NOMINEES AND WINNERS
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
May 2011**

Permanent Employee of the Month:

Susan Brown, South Agency

Frank Coronado, East Agency

Dana Spautz, North Agency

Joyce Fitzpatrick, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Permanent Employee of the Month: Dana Spautz

Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:

Wyvernia Brown, South Agency

Rosa Montenegro, East Agency

Azalea Morales, North Agency

Laura Zacarias, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:
Laura Zacarias**

Park/Facility or Program of the Month:

Magic Johnson Park, South Agency

Shorty Perez Plaque Dedication, East Agency

Val Verde Park, North Agency

Tesoro Adobe Historic Park, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Park/Facility or Program of the Month:
Shorty Perez Plaque Dedication**

NOMINEES AND WINNERS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JUNE 2011

Permanent Employee of the Month:

Warren Pierce, South Agency

Richard Chang, East Agency

Dinah Quinones, North Agency

None, Regional Facilities

Lucy Cheng, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Permanent Employee of the Month: Warren Pierce

Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:

Glenda Esteves, South Agency

Ryan Lim, East Agency

None, North Agency

Ralph Portillo, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:
Ryan Lim**

Park/Facility or Program of the Month:

South Agency Floor Care Specialist Crew, South Agency

Sunshine Park, East Agency

None, North Agency

None, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Park/Facility or Program of the Month:
South Agency Floor Care Specialist Crew**

NOMINEES AND WINNERS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JULY 2011

Permanent Employee of the Month:

Gary Ferguson, South Agency

Julio Sandoval, East Agency

Javier Santos, North Agency

Malinda Miller, Regional Facilities

Ross Varone, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Permanent Employee of the Month: Gary Ferguson

Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:

Linda Pino, South Agency

Michelle Torres, East Agency

Cristina Watson, North Agency

Arlene Martinez, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month: Cristina Watson

Park/Facility or Program of the Month:

Lennox Park, South Agency

Salazar Park, East Agency

Veterans Park Travel Crew, North Agency

None, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Park/Facility or Program of the Month: Salazar Park

**NOMINEES AND WINNERS
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
AUGUST 2011**

Permanent Employee of the Month:

Benjamin Johnson, South Agency

Ronald Atmore, East Agency

None, North Agency

None, Regional Facilities

Brenda Sanchez, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Permanent Employee of the Month: Brenda Sanchez

Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:

William Jarrett, South Agency

John Ruiz, East Agency

Yesenia Solano, North Agency

Pinky Parker, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

**Winner: Department Temporary/Recurrent Employee of the Month:
William Jarrett**

Park/Facility or Program of the Month:

Ted Watkins Park, South Agency

City Terrace Park, East Agency

None, North Agency

None, Regional Facilities

None, Administrative Services/Planning & Development Agencies

Winner: Department Park/Facility or Program of the Month: Ted Watkins Park

Service Anniversaries July 2011

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Andre Croker
Irrigation and Lawn Specialist
South Agency

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Elva Espinoza
Executive Secretary III
Executive Office

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Esperanza Gonzalez
Invoice Clerk
Administrative Services Agency

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Evelyn Kay Anderson
Secretary III
Special Districts Section
Administrative Services Agency

Service Anniversaries July 2011

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Katherine E. Avina
Contract Monitor Special Districts
Administrative Services Agency

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Gerardo "Gerry" Gonzalez
Area Pool Supervisor
East Agency

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



John Del Rio
Power Equipment Operator
Regional Facilities Agency

35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Phyllis Cunningham
Administrative Services Manager II
Regional Park and Open Space District

Service Anniversaries July 2011

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Paul David Numer
Park Superintendent
Regional Facilities Agency

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Earl Ellis
Grounds Maintenance Worker II
East Agency

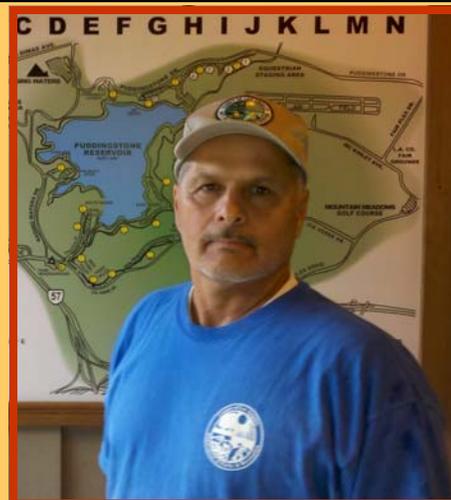
Service Anniversaries September 2011

35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Toni Simmons
Senior Secretary III
Planning and Development
Division

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



David Delgado
Grounds Maintenance Worker
Regional Facilities Agency

HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

My husband, Jerry, and I took a Standup Paddleboard lesson this past weekend. I would like to express my appreciation for your energetic and skilled staff.

Jerry and I were the oldest members in our class. It soon became evident to me that I was in somewhat over my head, so to speak. As I labored to keep up with the group, Park Superintendent I Eric Reifman, our instructor, fell back to personally escort and encourage me. His patience and calm enthusiasm was truly inspirational; he was my Castaic Lake, Guardian Angel! Please pass along my appreciation and gratitude to Eric Reifman; he's an outstanding credit to the Paddle Board/Kayaking Club at Castaic Lake! To be sure, we'll most certainly be back for more!

Kathleen Waldron
Santa Monica, CA

To: Lorraine Martinez, Recreation Services Manager

Just a note of thanks for the free back packs at Pamela Park on September 3rd. 105 back packs and school supplies were given away that day. It was truly a blessing for our church to partner with County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation. Your role in helping our staff, Valerie Fernandez and Jimmy Fernandez, coordinate and organize was very significant, and all the staff at the park were so helpful in assisting us with the event. For this we are most grateful. Your professionalism and caring for the community was shown throughout the arranging of the event even with the short notice. The County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation is very fortunate to have a great staff member as yourself. We hope in the future, we can partner again with you and the staff at Pamela Park for upcoming events. Thanks again for a very fruitful event.

Pastor Tim Wolfe
Abundant Life Fellowship C.C.

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



New Apollo Park Walkways are Just Ducky!

While North Agency construction division workers were replacing damaged walkways at Apollo Park, they were visited by two very friendly, very persistent ducks. Not only did they leave their "stamp of approval" all over the freshly poured concrete, the feathered pair followed the crew for the remainder of the day, dispensing quacks and looking for handouts. Although the concrete had to be smoothed more than once, one crew member pointed out that "people pay a lot of money to have designs like that done."



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor
Fifth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Department of Parks and Recreation

Russ Guiney
Director

John Wicker
Chief Deputy Director

Kaye Michelson
Special Assistant

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